

CLAIMS:

1. A method of storing audio/video data comprises:
capturing a plurality of audio/video data;
5 storing said audio/video data at a first spatial
and/or temporal resolution for a first time period; and
 storing said audio/video data at a second, lower,
spatial and/or temporal resolution for at least a second,
later, time period.
- 10 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the
first/second spatial resolution is a number of bits/pixels
per frame of video data.
- 15 3. A method as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2, in
which the first/second temporal resolution is a frame rate
of video data or a bit rate.
- 20 4. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, which
includes removing first selected audio/video data from
said audio/video data stored at said first spatial
resolution and/or temporal resolution to achieve said
second spatial and/or temporal resolution.
- 25 5. A method as claimed in claim 4, in which said first
selected audio/video data consists of frames of video
data.
- 30 6. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, which
includes a step of storing said audio/video at a third,
still lower, spatial and/or temporal resolution for at
least a third, still later, time period.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, in which the step of storing said audio/video data at the third spatial and/or temporal resolution follows removing second selected audio/video data from said audio video data stored at said 5 second spatial and/or temporal resolution to achieve said third spatial and/or temporal resolution.

8. A method as claimed in claim 4 or claim 5, in which said selected audio/video data are frames of audio/video 10 data of a second specified type of frame.

9. A method as claimed in claim 4 or 5, in which third or subsequent selected audio/video data is removed from said audio/video data of said second or subsequent spatial 15 and/or temporal resolution.

10. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the audio/video data is stored in an MPEG or MJPEG format.

20 11. A method as claimed in claim 10, in which said first selected audio/video data are preferably B-frames.

12. A method as claimed in either claim 10 or claim 11, in which said second selected audio/video data are P-frames.

25 13. A method as claimed in any one of claims 10 or 11, in which said third selected audio data is a plurality of I-frames of the audio/video data.

30 14. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the first time period is approximately 0.5 to 2 days in length.

15. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the second time period is approximately 5 to 10 days in length.

16. A system for storing audio/video data comprises:

5 at least one audio/video data capture means;
audio/video data storage means; and
control means;

10 wherein the system is operable to capture audio/video data and store said audio/video data at a first spatial and/or temporal resolution for a first time period and is operable to store said audio/video data at a second, lower, spatial and/or temporal resolution for at least a second, later, time period.

15 17. A system as claimed in claim 16, in which the control means is operable to remove first selected audio/video data from said audio/video data stored at said first spatial and/or temporal resolution to achieve said second spatial and/or temporal resolution.

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18. A computer programmed to perform the method of claim 1.

25 19. A computer program product operable to perform the method of claim 1.

30 20. A system for capturing audio/video data comprises audio/video data capture means, storage means and control means, wherein the system is operable to perform the method of claim 1.